

Message Text

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FM USMISSION OECD PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASH DC 5141
INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

C O N F I D E N T I A L OECD PARIS 02157

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, RO, OECD

SUBJECT: RUMANIAN INTEREST IN OBSERVER STATUS

1. AT HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETING AFTERNOON JANUARY 24 SECRETARY-GENERAL VAN LE-NEP REPORTED THAT IN DECEMBER DIRECTOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS DIVISION OECD HAD RECEIVED CALL FROM SECOND SECRETARY OF RUMANIAN EMBASSY IN PARIS. HE HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THAT COUNTRY RECEIVING OVSERVER STATUS IN ORGANIZATION SIMILAR TO THAT NOW HELD BY YUGOSLAVIA. FOLLOWING A GENERALLY NON-COMMITAL REPLY BY THE DER, RUMANIAN INDICATED HE WOULD RETURN IN NEAR FUTURE TO LEARN OF GENERAL RESPONSE THIS OVER-TURE AND DETERMINE IF TIME IS RIGHT FOR A MORE OFFICIAL DEMARCHE. IT WAS ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT A HIGHLY TENTATIVE AND INFORMAL CONTACT HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY ANOTHER MIDDLE LEVEL SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL LAST SUMMER.

2. IN ENSUING DISCUSSION BY AMBASSADORS THERE WERE SERIES OF OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING NEED FOR GREAT CAUTION AND FAR-REACHING POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF
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THIS QUESTION, WHICH FAR TRANSCENDED RUMANIA'S REQUEST

FOR OBSERVER STATUS. IT WAS OBVIOUSLY RECOGNIZED BY A MAJORITY OF HEADS OF DELEGATION PRESENT THAT OPENING THE MEMBERSHIP QUESTION NOW WOULD PROBABLY NECESSITATE CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS FROM NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH WOULD HAVE EQUALLY GOOD CLAIMS ON ELIGIBILITY INCLUDING CANDIDATES FROM MIDDLE EAST AND LATIN AMERICA.

3. THE ONLY DELEGATIONS WHICH APPEARED TO REACT INITIALLY IN AFFIRMATIVE MANNER, ALTHOUGH ADMITTEDLY WITHOUT INSTRUCTION, WERE ITALY AND PORTUGAL. ITALIAN AMBASSADOR SAID IN LIGHT OF HIS GOVT'S POSITION AT TIME OF LAST RUMANIAN INQUIRY IN 1971, GOI WOULD PROBABLY FAVOR THEIR CANDIDACY IN PRINCIPLE. PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT NATION'S GREAT INTEREST IN DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOR AND THAT THIS TYPE OF ADDITIONAL CONTACT WOULD PROBABLY BE REGARDED IN FAVORABLE LIGHT.

4. SECY-GENERAL RECALLED THAT SERIOUS OPPOSITION TO GOR FEELERS OF 1971 HAD BEEN EXPRESSED BY REPRESENTATIVE FROM YUGOSLAVIA. DANISH AMBASSADOR STATED THAT PREVIOUSLY INTEREST OF GOR IN FINAL ANALYSIS WAS IN MORE MARGINAL OECD PROGRAMS SUCH AS TOURISM RATHER THAN IN PRINCIPAL SUBSTANTIVE AREAS. OTHER CONCERNS WERE EXPRESSED ABOUT ADMISSION OF A NON-MARKET ECONOMY NATION AND A MEMBER OF COMECON.

5. IT WAS GENERALLY CONCLUDED THAT BECAUSE OF HIGHLY POLITICAL NATURE OF THIS QUESTION, FUTURE APPLICATIONS SHOULD INITIALLY BE CONSIDERED IN HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETINGS IN ORDER TO REDUCE UNDESIRE PUBLICITY THAT SUCH A DISCUSSION MIGHT ENGENDER IN THE COUNCIL.

6. AMBASSADOR GALLAGHER OF UK SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS COUNCIL WORKING PARTY ON EAST-WEST RELATIONS SHOULD BE REDESIGNATED TO BE COUNCIL WORKING PARTY ON RELATIONS WITH NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES TO PRELIMINARILY ENTERTAIN SUCH OVERTURES IN FUTURE. ALTHOUGH THIS IDEA WAS SECONDED BY AMBASSADOR VALERY OF FRANCE AND SOME CONFIDENTIAL

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INTEREST EXPRESSED, IT SEEMED TO BE A BROADER CONSENSUS THAT BECAUSE OF IMPORTANCE OF THIS MATTER POLITICALLY AND ITS FAR-REACHING IMPLICATIONS TO HOMOGENEITY, COMPOSITION AND EFFECTIVENESS OF OECD, IT WAS PROBABLY PREFERENTIAL TO CONSIDER SUCH QUESTIONS IN HEADS OF DELEGATION SESSIONS WHICH ARE BY DEFINITION INFORMAL AND OFF THE RECORD.

7. IT IS INTENTION OF SECY-GENERAL TO ENTERTAIN ANY
SUBSEQUENT CONTACTS BY GOR IN EXTREMELY LOW KEY FASHION,
AS WARRANTED BY TENOR OF DISCUSSION, AND TO REPORT BACK
TO COUNCIL IN EVENT A MORE FORMALIZED DEMARCHE IS
RECEIVED.
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